

Joseph Maston Thomas was born in Miami County, Indiana, March 10th 1865. He was one of a family of five children, two of whom preceded him in death. He was married to Maggie Burrous of Galveston, August 18, 1887, and together they have enjoyed a happy and contented life. No children were born to them, but a nephew, Glen McIlwain, was given a home with them from the age of five years, to young manhood, and loved and cherished by them in their care for him with all the devotion parents could give a son. For the last nine years they have cared for Elizabeth Lantis, who found them loving and helpful in their care.

Mr. Thomas was a member of the K. of P., Modern Woodmen and Odd Fellows' lodges and his fraternal relations were found to be loyal and honorable and deserving of the highest respect from his brethren. For 33 years he was a faithful and regular member of the Methodist Episcopal church, always found in his place in the regular services of the church when health permitted him to attend.

In January, 1920, he was stricken with paralysis which caused a lingering illness for nearly three years, and through it all he was a patient sufferer often greeting friends when they called with a cheerful and hopeful smile. He was industrious and energetic in his work, following farming in his early years and later engaged in the mercantile business. When hopes for recovery were given up he assured his companion and his friends that he was ready for the end. This assurance bespeaks for him the respect and devotion of the christian faith to which he fastened his hopes. On the morning of the 18th of December, 1923, he went to sleep free from the suffering of the physical body and the reward of his faith gained in his patient sufferings. With his passing away the church loses a faithful and devoted member, the community loses an industrious and loyal citizen, and his good wife a loved and cherished companionship. To hear his friends inquire of him as "Uncle Joe," reveals at once the high respect and esteem that his friendship for young and old has won him.

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